

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGR-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01

OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8184

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS EI

SUBJ: LOS: FISHING ZONES AND ROCKALL ISLAND

1. IN ANTICIPATION OF THE CONFERENCE THERE HAS BEEN

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CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION HERE ON VARIOUS LOS ISSUES, PARTICULARLY

THE 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. CRITICS ARE SAYING THAT THE GOI MAY HAVE SIGNED AWAY VITAL IRISH INTERESTS IN ITS ACCESSION TO THE EC PROTOCOL ON THE 200 MILE ZONE.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD IN SEVERAL INTERVIEWS HAS VIGOROUSLY DEFENDED THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION, STATING THAT THE "TRADE OFF" AMONG THE EC ON FISHING ZONES WILL ASSURE THE IRISH FISHERMEN OF A BETTER DEAL THAN THEY HAVE EVER HAD. BUT THE FISHERMEN ARE INSISTING THAT THE IRISH HAVE ACTUALLY GIVEN UP THE POSSIBILITY OF AN "EXCLUSIVE" FISHING ZONE AROUND IRELAND. FITZGERALD SAYS THAT THE IRISH NEGOTIATORS IN NEW YORK ARE CHARGED WITH OBTAINING A 50 MILE EXCLUSIVE ZONE FOR IRELAND, BUT IT IS APPARENT THAT THE GOI HAS DECIDED TO BE RATHER FLEXIBLE ON THIS ISSUE, REALIZING THAT IT MUST ALIGN ITS POSITION IN THE EC WITH THE BRITISH, WHO HAVE ESSENTIALLY SIMILAR INTERESTS. FITZGERALD MADE A VAGUE STATEMENT ABOUT THE USE OF IRELAND'S "VETO" IN THE EC IF IRELAND'S VITAL INTERESTS ARE THREATENED.

3. THE LONGSTANDING DISPUTE BETWEEN IRELAND AND THE UK ON THE SOVEREIGNTY OF A BIT OF ROCK CALLED ROCKALL ISLAND HAS BEEN MUCH IN DISCUSSION, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE OIL COMPANIES BELIEVE THERE IS A FAIR CHANCE OF COMMERCIALY VIABLE OIL DEPOSITS IN THE NEAR VICINITY OF ROCKALL. WITH OIL IN MIND THE IRISH HAVE NOW DECIDED TO PRESS THEIR CLAIM FOR ROCKALL, BUT ARE BASING THEIR STRATEGY ON ARTICLE 132 OF THE DRAFT LOS AGREEMENT. APPARENTLY THE IRISH LEGAL EXPERTS HAVE DECIDED THAT HISTORICAL SOVEREIGNTY OF AN "ISLAND" WOULD PROBABLY RESIDE WITH THE UK IF THE ISSUE GETS INTO ANY KIND OF INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION, BUT ARTICLE 132 WOULD PRECLUDE ROCKALL AS A DEFINED ISLAND (IT BEING UNINHABITABLE) AND WOULD THUS PUT THE AREA WITHIN IRELAND'S CONTINENTAL SHELF.

4. COMMENT: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ABOVE IS THAT THE IRISH ARE SOMEWHAT BELATEDLY REALIZING THAT IRELAND HAS SOME CONFLICTING INTERESTS WITH THE REST OF THE EC IN VARIOUS LOS ISSUES, PARTICULARLY THE 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE AND THE DEFINITION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, AND WITH THE CURRENT PUBLICITY OF THESE PROBLEMS IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE IRISH LOS DELEGATION'S POSITION WILL BE LESS FLEXIBLE THAN BEFORE. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECRETARY OF THE IRISH DELEGATION, GERALDINE SKINNER, TOLD AN EMBOFF LAST FRIDAY, AS SHE WAS LEAVING FOR NEW YORK, THAT THE IRISH DELEGATION WAS GOING OFF WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS SINCE THE VARIOUS MINISTRIES HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO AGREE ON INSTRUCTIONS. IN THIS SITUATION THE DELEGATION WILL PROBABLY NOT BE VERY HELPFUL IN ARRANGING COMPROMISES, AND LOCAL IRISH POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WILL WEIGH HEAVILY. CURLEY

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Draft Date: 04 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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